

underside, except the throat and neck, smeared with reddish chestnut, almost the same tint as that of the pectoral band, which in this example is much narrower than usual.

44. *DENDROCYGNA ARCUATA* (Gould, vii. pl. 14).

45. *DENDROCYGNA EYTONI* (Gould, vii. pl. 15).

St. Paul's, Newtown, Sydney, New South Wales,
March 5, 1864.

VII.—Note on two rare Species of the American genus *Dendræca*.

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Zoological Society of London.

IN the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' for 1860 (p. 298) Mr. Salvin and I described a new species of the American genus *Dendræca*, intermediate between the well-known *D. virens* and its western representative, *D. townsendi*, under the name *chrysoparia*. The distinguishing marks of this species (which was established on two skins obtained by Mr. O. Salvin in the mountainous district of Vera Paz*, Guatemala) were the black back and white abdomen. In both *D. virens* and *D. townsendi* the back of the adult male is olive; and the breast, in the latter bird, is bright yellow, in the former bird decidedly tinged with that colour. The sides of the head in *D. chrysoparia* are pure yellow, brighter than in *D. virens*, with a distinct black line through the eye; in *D. townsendi* there is a large and conspicuous black auricular patch. In fine, the new species seemed to us (as, in fact, it is) evidently readily distinguishable from the two previously known species of the genus.

In 1862, in an interesting series of birds collected by M. Boucard in Southern Mexico, which were submitted to my examination by M. Sallé, I found three examples of a *Dendræca* belonging to the same group of species. Not having Mr. Salvin's types at hand for comparison, I concluded, somewhat hastily, seeing that they possessed some of the characters

* "On the highest point of the road between Salamá and Tactic," (Salvin in 'Ibis,' 1860, p. 273.)

above mentioned, that they were specifically identical with *D. chrysoparia*; and I accordingly referred them to that species, both in my notes on M. Boucard's collection (P. Z. S. 1862, p. 19) and in my American Catalogue (p. 358).

In the following year, 1863, Mr. Salvin described and figured a new *Dendræca* from Guatemala*, of which he had obtained three specimens during his last expedition to that country in company with Mr. F. Godman. This bird he proposed to call *D. niveiventris*, remarking at the same time, quite correctly, that it was this species, and not the true *D. chrysoparia*, that I had obtained from M. Boucard's collection.

As I have just said, Mr. Salvin was quite right in separating his *D. niveiventris* from *D. chrysoparia*; for, in truth, the adult males of these two species are conspicuously different. While, however, I take some credit to myself for assisting my friend to rectify my own mistake on the point, I must at the same time acknowledge myself guilty of the crime of abetting him in characterizing as new a species which had been long previously described, Mr. Salvin's *Dendræca niveiventris* being certainly nothing else but *Dendræca occidentalis*, Baird (*Sylvia occidentalis*, Townsend).

I have, however, again lately had the pleasure of examining specimens of the true *D. chrysoparia* through the kindness of Mr. Dresser. Two skins obtained by that gentleman, during his recent travels in Texas, from the well-known American naturalist, Dr. A. L. Heermann, seem without doubt to belong to that species, and thus give us indications of an interesting extension of its previously known range. One of Dr. Heermann's specimens, an adult male of *D. chrysoparia*, is labelled as having been procured "on the Medina river, Howard's Raunch, San Antonio, Texas," in the early spring of the year. The second is without any label, but is probably an immature male of the same species.

It would thus appear that there are four closely allied species of *Dendræca* of this section, inhabiting various parts of North America, of which the diagnosis may shortly be given as follows:

* P. Z. S. 1863, p. 187.

(1.) *DENDRÆCA VIRENS*.

Motacilla virens, Gm. ; *Dendræca virens*, Baird, B.N.A. p. 267.

♂. Dorso olivaceo, pileo concolore, capitis lateribus flavis : gutture toto nigro : abdomine albo, pectore flavo induto, lateribus nigro flammulatis.

♀. Mari similis, sed coloribus dilutioribus, gutture flavo (*Baird*).

Hab. Eastern United States to Missouri, descending southwards through Mexico to Guatemala.

(2.) *DENDRÆCA OCCIDENTALIS*.

Sylvia occidentalis, Townsend. *Dendræca occidentalis*, Baird, B.N.A. p. 268. *D. chrysoparia*, Scater, P.Z.S. 1862, p. 19, & Cat. Am. B. p. 358. *D. niveiventris*, Salvin, P.Z.S. 1863, p. 187, pl. xxiv. fig. 2.

♂. Dorso cineraceo, plumis nigro variegatis : pileo toto cum lateribus capitis læte flavis, nuchæ plumis nigricante terminatis : gutture circumscripte nigro : abdomine toto pure albo, lateribus immaculatis.

♀. Mari similis, sed coloribus dilutioribus gula media vix nigricante.

Hab. Pacific States, descending southwards to Oaxaca (*Boucard*) and Guatemala (*Salvin*).

(3.) *DENDRÆCA TOWNSENDI*.

Sylvia townsendi, Nuttall. *Dendræca townsendi*, Baird, B.N.A. p. 269.

♂. Dorso olivaceo, pileo nigro : capitis lateribus flavis, plaga auriculari nigra : gutture nigro : abdomine medio flavo, inferiore albo, lateribus nigro flammulatis.

♀. Pileo dorso concolore, gutture et ventre summo flavescentibus, pectore et lateribus nigricante flammulatis.

Hab. Pacific States, descending southwards to Mexico, Oaxaca (*Boucard*), and Guatemala (*Salvin*).

(4.) *DENDRÆCA CHRYSOPARIA*.

Scater & Salvin, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 298; Salvin, 'Ibis,' 1860, p. 273.

♂. Dorso et pileo toto supra nigris, stria angusta verticali flava : capitis lateribus flavissimis, stria per oculos nigra : gutture ad medium pectoris nigro : abdomine albo, lateribus nigris flammulatis.

♀. Supra olivacea ; gutture et pectore albidis, nigro variegatis.

Hab. San Antonio, Texas (*Heermann*), descending southwards to Guatemala (*Salvin*).